



# **friends of the flinders ranges national park**

**March – April 2010**

[www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au](http://www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au)

**Patron – Mrs Elizabeth Jamieson**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **26-30<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Oraparinna**

Despite the note in the newsletter about the March week-end being cancelled if forecast temperature for Port Augusta on Friday was 35°C we all drove to Oraparinna with the mercury on or about 35°C and staying that way for the next two days. And we worked out in the sun on Saturday and in a very hot Guide Hut on Sunday. Asked why we were there under these conditions we all said – “because we wanted to be back in the Flinders”, so there!

Friday night saw Terri, Trevor, Tricia, Tony Julie, Peter, Helen and Vince having our usual dinner and then Lorraine and Tom “walked us through” drafts of the new interp signage currently being prepared, and hopefully executed, for Appealinna. Many of you will remember, with some affection and possibly more irritation, that Appealinna has been one of the foremost Friends’ projects since before 2000, beginning with the re-building of the stone wall and then the clearing out of a number of the ruins, together with a great deal of research into the pastoral and mining history of the site. I believe that I am right in saying that the Friends present on this occasion were very impressed with the work that Lorraine and her counterpart in DEH have done and Tom’s role in the whole project and await, eagerly, the finished work, “on the ground”, so to speak.

Thankyou also Lorraine for making available copies of all the interp. signs and a map of their future locations on site. To show our ongoing interest and commitment to the site, we all worked there on Saturday, clearing out two more buildings, ridding these and other buildings of horehound and cutting the dead wood from the fig trees which only last November were deemed to have died. They are now green and fruiting. A comment from one “no name member” highlights the current state of play at Appealinna. Athol was able to be present on Saturday before starting the Autumn Events.

Bloody Norah! I can’t believe it even now! But yes, I have it on good authority – it is happening! Soon! Like this year – 2010!. What is all this feather fluffing about? You might well ask, and yes, it is Appealinna. Lorraine and Tom have indicated a time-line for implementation of early April-May 2010 for the signs and installation on site later this year. The Friends, and particularly Tony and Frank who have researched the site for over 10 years, with Frank writing an as yet unpublished book on the life and times of Joseph Wills of Appealinna, have agitated for the realisation of this project throughout this period. Now through the collaboration of DEH and the Friends, this is about to happen. I know that Joe Wills and his family will undoubtedly rest easier knowing that finally their story is to be presented in its true light – and that many visitors to the Flinders will be made aware of it – justice has finally been served! Signed – Joe Wills’ Relative.”

Despite the shortness of the meeting after a fine BBQ tea we all were so tired that an early night of little sleep, mozzies and a morning that arrived far too soon brought on Sunday and an early start for Guide Hut – before the sun got too hot! Yeah, right! The track had just been graded the day before so was a pleasure to drive on for 70% of the 18 kms. The rest was new bulldust, newly turned up rocks and, very fortunately safer creek crossings. We all made it and were quickly into wiring of the walls not completed last year, pugging those that had been done and ridding the site of weeds, especially horehound. A cool breeze blew in the shady areas outside, but inside we felt like scones in an oven! A communal lunch in the shade proved enjoyable and then we worked on until about 3-30 p.m. after which we wended our weary way back to Oraparinna. We were glad to have Senior Ranger Tom with us, not just for his pugging expertise but more especially for his careful ‘management’ of the red-back spiders which had taken up residence in one room along with their baby-sacs. The return trip was enhanced by the appearance of ominous clouds in front of us but they did not need any help to dissipate without issue! The thought of having to drive in and around wet bulldust was not as exhilarating as petrol heads might think!

Monday was designated as “look around” day so we drove to Blinman and had a good look around the Wild Lime Café where we savoured Robyn’s wonderful cooking for morning tea. A drive west to Angorichina Village enabled us to show Terrie and Trevor the stone retaining walls on the main road. Not having seen them before, they marvelled at the skill and determination of those road-builders/engineers in the 1890s. Back to the North Blinman Hotel for lunch and then a more relaxed drive along the emergency track to Elatina, the old eating house site which Terrie and Trevor had not seen either. It was good to see some water there still and the mulberry looking as large and good as ever. We even heard a frog! Not a final croak we hoped! Later, the cooler evening back at Oraparinna made sleeping easier and cleaning up on Tuesday morning quicker and less tiresome. The morning tea at the Quandong Café in Quorn was a fitting way for our group to wind up the week-end’s proceedings. Thanks to all for the continued efforts over the weekend –Tony.

## Note:

Friends' Meeting in Adelaide, State Library, voted for at the AGM has been postponed until May due to the proximity of Easter, school holidays etc. **It will now be Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 10-00 a.m.** Room to be advised in the next newsletter.

Note: "None of us is getting any younger" so the saying goes. That applies to Tricia, Peter, Helen and Vince during April. Happy Birthday all. The Friends.

## April Meeting: Oraparinna Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 2010

Programme:

Arrive Friday, discussion session after tea.

Saturday – 9 a.m. to Guide Hut – wiring, pugging, selection of stone for floors.

4-00 p.m. to Oraparinna; BBQ tea, no meeting. Review of data base project.

Sunday – 9 a.m. to Appealinna – clearing of ruins; lunch; pm to be decided depending on the success of the morning's efforts.

4-00 p.m. to Oraparinna

Monday 8-00 a.m. – clean Quarter; drive to Quorn for morning tea at the Quandong Café.

## Future Meetings:

May – 4 <sup>th</sup> Weekend Friday 21 – Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Oraparinna
June – 4 <sup>th</sup> Weekend Friday 25 – Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ditto
July – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend Friday 16 – Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ditto
Aug. – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend Friday 20 – Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Ditto
Sept. – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ditto
Oct. – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend Friday 15 – Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ditto
Nov – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ditto

## CONTACTS:

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### Reminders:

Annual subscriptions for the year 2010 are due - **\$20 per family.**

**Copies of the booklets** "*Exploring the Flinders – Flinders Ranges National Park Tours*" and "*Diary of an Artist*" are now available for distribution and sale to/by members for \$10 per copy.

Friends intending to attend April week-end please reserve your room by ringing Tony Bott by next Monday 12 April.